



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF
CIVIL RIGHTS

June 6, 2016

Return Receipt Requested

Certified Mail#: 7015 1520 0002 0019 2588

In Reply Refer To:

EPA File No. 24R-16-R5

Ms. Sarah Lewison
Concerned Citizens of Carbondale
Carbondale Racial Justice Coalition
Post Office Box 2201
Carbondale, Illinois 62902

Re: Rejection of Administrative Correspondence

Dear Ms. Lewison:

This letter is to notify you that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Civil Rights (OCR), has completed its review of your correspondence received by OCR on April 18, 2015. Your correspondence alleged civil rights violations by EPA due to the RCRA designation and selected corrective measures at the former Koppers Wood Treatment Plant in Carbondale, Illinois. After careful consideration, the OCR has concluded that it cannot accept your complaint for investigation, as the jurisdictional requirements have not been met. Accordingly, your complaint is rejected and this matter is closed as of the date of this letter.

The OCR is responsible for processing and investigating complaints alleging discrimination by programs or activities that receive financial assistance from the EPA. To be accepted for investigation, a complaint must meet jurisdictional requirements described in the EPA's nondiscrimination regulations. First, it must be in writing. Second, it must describe an alleged discriminatory act that, if true, would violate the EPA's nondiscrimination regulations (i.e., an alleged discriminatory act based on race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability). Third, it must be filed within 180 days of the alleged discriminatory act. Finally, the complaint must be filed against an applicant for, or recipient of, EPA assistance, which has allegedly committed the discriminatory act.

The OCR is rejecting your complaint because the OCR does not have jurisdiction to investigate alleged civil rights violations by EPA, as EPA is not an "applicant for, or recipient of, EPA assistance. OCR is aware that the Concerned Citizens of Carbondale have been in touch previously with Alan Walts, Director of the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, Region 5. Accordingly, OCR is copying Mr. Walts on this letter and referring this matter to him

for appropriate action. We regret that OCR cannot assist you further in this matter. If you have any questions, please contact Laura Bachle by telephone at (202) 566-2468 or bachle.laura@epa.gov.

Sincerely,



Lilian S. Dorka
Deputy Director, Interim Director
Office of Civil Rights

cc Elise Packard
Associate General Counsel
Civil Rights & Finance Law Office

Cheryl Newton
Acting Deputy Regional Administrator
U.S. EPA, Region 5

Alan Walts
Director
Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance
U.S. EPA, Region 5

Barry Breen, Deputy Civil Rights Official
Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator
Office of Land and Emergency Management